



## Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region One  
490 North Meridian Rd.  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 752-5501  
FAX: 406-257-0349  
Ref:DV216-03  
December 9, 2003

TO: Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, 59620-1704  
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Planning, Prevention & Assistance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901  
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Permitting Compliance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks: Director's Office – Reg Peterson; Lands – Darlene Edge; Wildlife – Steve Knapp; and  
Legal Unit – Brandi Fisher  
FWP Commissioner Mike Murphy, 2401 Recreation Road S, Wolf Creek, 59648  
Montana Historical Society, SHPO, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's Memorial Building, Helena, 59620-1201  
Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, 59620-1800  
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624  
George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624  
Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation, PO Box 728, Libby, 59923  
Montana State Parks Association, PO Box 699, Billings, 59103  
Joe Gutkoski, President, Montana River Action Network, 304 N 18<sup>th</sup> Ave., Bozeman, 59715  
Rep. Sylvia Bookout-Reinicke, PO Box 327, Alberton, 59820  
Rep. Paul Clark, 20 Fox Lane, Trout Creek, 59874  
Sen. Jim Elliott, 100 Trout Creek Road, Trout Creek, 59874  
Thompson Falls Library, 402 Maiden Lane, Thompson Falls, 59873  
Sanders County Commissioners, PO Box 519, Thompson Falls, 59873

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region One, has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Thompson River Co-Gen Project for the purpose of a power line easement across the Mt. Silcox Wildlife Management Area (WMA) for the construction of a transmission line for delivery of electrical power from the Thompson River Co-Gen Project to North Western Energy for service to Montana consumers.

There were no changes to the draft EA; therefore, the draft becomes the final EA. A copy of the Decision Document is enclosed for your information.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Vincent  
Regional Supervisor

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Enclosure

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Misc

**Decision Notice  
and  
Finding of No Significant Impact  
for  
Mt. Silcox Easement Grant**

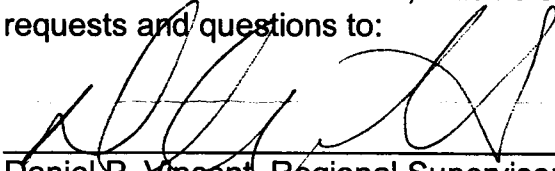
December 9, 2003

The proposal is to grant a power line easement for a 1,400'-x-60' power line easement across the Mt. Silcox Wildlife Management Area (WMA) for construction of 115kv transmission line for delivery of electrical power from the Thompson River Co-Gen Project to NorthWestern Energy for service to Montana consumers. In exchange for the grant of a power line easement, the Thompson River Co-Gen, LLC, would agree to do weed control on the Mt. Silcox WMA in amount equal to the FMV of the easement grant which is approximately \$5,000.

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**

One comment was received with a concern that the additional power lines be well marked with balls and any power line towers be lighted at night. This concern will be referred to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and FWP will defer to their recommendation. Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment (EA) and the public comment received, I find that Alternative B (Grant of Easement) to be the preferred alternative. I have evaluated the EA and applicable laws, regulations, and policies, and have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

The Final Environmental Assessment and the FONSI may be viewed at or obtained from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region One. Please direct requests and questions to:

  
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Daniel P. Vincent, Regional Supervisor  
Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
490 N. Meridian Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 752-5501

12/9/03  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date